



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO **MANAGER'S REPORT**

DATE ISSUED: November 7, 2001 REPORT NO. 01-243

ATTENTION: Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee

SUBJECT: Taxicab Zones on Public Streets

REFERENCE: Manager's Report Nos. 01-131 and 01-157

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

At the June 20 meeting of the Rules Committee, during the discussion of the taxicab permits issue, the subject of taxicab zones was raised. Staff was asked to work with Metropolitan Transit Development Board (MTDB) and the MTDB Taxicab Advisory Committee, and prepare a report to the Public Safety & Neighborhood Services Committee. A taxicab zone, also known as a taxicab stand, is a parking space reserved for taxicab parking only. There is no parking time limit. A taxicab zone may be used for dropping off passengers, picking them up, or waiting for customers to arrive. Taxicab zones on public streets are authorized by California Vehicle Code Section 21112. San Diego Municipal Code Section 86.09(c) regulates the use of them, and Section 86.06 authorizes staff to install them. Under contract, MTDB administers the taxicab program for the City of San Diego, as well as seven other cities in the region. MTDB regulates taxicabs under MTDB Ordinance No. 11.

DISCUSSION

There is widespread support within the taxicab industry for more taxicab zones, especially in popular dining and entertainment areas. The demand for parking, however, is quite intense in these areas, and the adjacent businesses are very sensitive to any changes in parking uses that may impact their business or customers. Accordingly, it is prudent to carefully consider the views of all stakeholders when evaluating for parking use changes, such as installing a taxicab zone.

Similarly, existing taxicab zones are an important asset for the taxicab industry, and proposals to remove or relocate taxicab zones should be carefully reviewed for alternatives and impacts on the taxicab industry. In addition, there is a desire for standardized signage and markings at new and existing taxicab zones.

Accordingly, City and MTDB staff, along with the a subcommittee of the Taxicab Advisory Committee, developed a Taxicab Stand Design Criteria Manual. The current draft is under review by the Taxicab Advisory Committee. It provides a procedure for installation, removal, and relocation of taxicab zones. The procedure is intended to consider the needs of all stakeholders, including the taxicab industry, taxicab customers, and adjacent properties affected by changes in parking regulations. The manual also provides regional uniformity for delineation for taxicab zones.

1. The Procedure for Installation, Removal and Relocation of Taxicab Zones -
 - a. The MTDB/City of San Diego engineering liaison will respond to all requests regarding taxicab zone installation, removal and relocation. The request may be initiated by any entity, including the taxicab industry, a private party, City staff, or MTDB staff.
 - b. The liaison will work with MTDB and City staff, and present the request to the MTDB Taxicab Advisory Committee.
 - c. The liaison and MTDB staff will determine what action is recommended.
 - d. The liaison will notify abutting properties and businesses of the recommendations, and give them an opportunity to respond.
 - e. The liaison will deny or approve action, and notify MTDB. Upon approval of any action, MTDB contractors will install, remove or relocate the taxicab zone.

2. Uniformity and Maintenance - A uniform delineation has been developed for taxicab zones. They should have white painted curb marking with the message TAXI ZONE stenciled in red. There should also be a 12" x 24" sign posted at standard height with a graphic representation of a taxicab and the message TAXI ONLY. The sign should also indicate how many taxicabs may be parked in the taxicab zone at a time (usually one or two). The sign is illustrated in the Attachment. All new taxicab zones are installed to this standard. Upon request, existing taxicab zones will be upgraded to this standard by City forces. Attachment 1 illustrates the standard taxicab zone.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Cruz Gonzalez
Director, Transportation Department

Approved: George I. Loveland
Senior Deputy City Manager

LOVELAND/AH

Note: The attachment is not available in electronic format. A copy of the attachment is available for review in the Office of the City Clerk.

Attachment: Standard Taxi Stand Sign